

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 CU-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05
IO-13 /095 W

-----141739Z 045092 /43

P R 141645Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO UEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1614

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, IV

SUBJ: STUDENT STRIKE CONTINUES AND WIDENS

STILL FURTHER

REF: (A) ABIDJAN 0339, (B) ABIDJAN 0378

1. STUDENT STRIKE HAS WIDENED STILL FURTHER IN PAST 24 HOURS TO INVOLVE PRIVATE AND MISSION-RUN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH CLOSED DURING COURSE OF MORNING JANUARY 14. ALSO CLOSED WAS COLLEGE JEAN-MERMOZ, A PRIVATE LYCEE, WHOSE STUDENT POPULATION IS PREDOMINANTLY EXPATRIATE, INCLUDING SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN STUDENTS. TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, ALL OF ABIDJAN'S SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS NOW COSED.

2. POLITICAL DIMENSION HAS BEEN ADDED TO STRIKE

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WITH CRUDELY PRINTED FLYERS APPEARING CALLING FOR BATTLE AGAINST FASCIST REGIME, MILITARY OPPRESSION AND CORRUPT IVORIAN BOURGEOISIE.

3. STUDENTS ARE CALLING FOR SOLIDARITY OF ENTIRE STUDENT POPULATION OF IVORY COAST IN DEMANDING REDRESS OF GRIVEANCES AND RELEASE OF THOSE DETAINED. ESTIMATES OF

NUMBER OF STUDENTS DETAINED, PRINCIPALLY AT AKOUEDEO FIRST BATTALION ARMY CAMP OUTSIDE ABIDJAN, RANGE FROM 1400 GIVEN BY ONE OFFICIAL SOURCE TO STUDENT FIGURES OF 2000-3000. AT SAME TIME, SMALL NUMBERS OF STUDENTS BEING RELEASED. ON JANUARY 13, EMBOFF WITNESSED TWO POLICE VANS DISCHARGE AT LYCEE SAINTE MARIE APPROXIMATELY FIFTY GIRLS WHO HAD BEEN PICKED UP DURING SWEEP OF BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORTED REF (B). THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT SOME SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ROGHLY HANDLED BY POLICE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE STRIKE HAS WIDENED, GOIC FORCES REMAIN IN FIRM CONTROL. ACTIVITY IN CITY REMAINS OUTWARDLY NORMAL WITH NO DISCERNIBLE EVIDENCE OF RECENT EVENTS APART FROM HEAVY POLICE AND MILITARY PRESENCE AROUND MAJOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND DISTURBANCES HAVE BEEN SO FAR CONFINED TO CAMPUSES.

5. DESPITE THE OUTWARD CALM IN THE CITY AND THE ALMOST FESTIVE AIR OF NUMBERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS "LIERATED" THIS MORNING, THE STRIKE IS BEGINNING TO TAKE ON POLITICAL OVERTONES AS AT LEAST SOME STUDENTS WIDEN THEIR ATTACK TO INCLUDE THE REGIME ITSELF. THE MASSIVE DETENTIONS HAVE PROVOKED CRITICISM BY MANY TEACHERS AND PARENTS WHILE OTHERS CALL FOR THE GOIC TO BE EVEN MORE SEVERE. MEANWHILE THE NEW BLACKOUT ON EVENTS REMAINS TOTAL AND THE COUNTRY AWAITS THE RETURN OF HOUPHOUET WHO TODAY WENT FROM LOME TO LAGOS FOR THE OPENING OF FESTAC. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DETENTION, POLITICAL STABILITY, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, BOYCOTTS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770153/aaaabtzy.tel
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